

LEXICAL RELATIONS ANALYSIS IN AYI KWEI ARMAH'S *THE BEAUTIFUL ONES ARE NOT YET BORN*: A DISCOURSE-SEMANTIC PERSPECTIVE

ANALYSE DE RELATIONS LEXICALES DANS LE ROMAN DE AYI KWEI ARMAH INTITULÉ *THE BEAUTIFUL ONES ARE NOT YET BORN*: UNE APPROCHE DE LA SEMANTIQUE DU DISCOURS

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Résumé : Cette étude vise à examiner la sémantique du discours de deux extraits tirés du roman de Ayi Kwei Armah intitulé *The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born* en mettant l'accent sur les relations lexicales. La motivation derrière cette étude découle de la volonté de sonder l'usage langagier de l'écrivain dans les extraits sélectionnés non seulement en rapport avec le contexte situationnel mais aussi en rapport avec le contexte culturel desdits extraits en vue de dévoiler les sens profonds des messages véhiculés par l'auteur dans lesdits extraits. En outre, l'étude examine comment l'auteur utilise des éléments lexicaux et des séquences d'événement tels que des chaînes de propositions et de phrases pour relier ses textes de manière cohérente à leur domaine d'intérêt. Pour l'atteinte des objectifs de la recherche, la méthodologie mixte (quantitative et qualitative) a été utilisée. L'analyse révèle entre autres résultats, la prédominance des relations lexicales d'attente sur les autres types de relations lexicales dans les deux extraits étudiés. Une telle représentation linguistique des extraits est révélatrice du fait que le romancier s'est attaché à la matière de ses textes pour permettre à son lectorat de suivre son intrigue afin d'accéder aisément à ses messages codés. Les relations lexicales d'attente sont suivies dans l'ordre par un grand nombre de relations d'antonymie et de synonymie. Cela témoigne de la richesse du vocabulaire anglais de l'auteur et de son effort pour faire passer ses messages poignants sans ambiguïté. L'étude s'ouvre à des analyses de références et des relations conjonctives pour un décodage plus profond des sens cachés des messages véhiculés par l'auteur dans les extraits examinés.

Mots-clés : Discours, relation lexicales, sémantique, SFL

Abstract: This study seeks to examine the discourse semantics of two selected excerpts from Ayi Kwei Armah's *The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born* with a focus on lexical relations. The choice of carrying out this research work stemmed from the desire to probe the writer's language use in the selected excerpts not only in relation to the context of situation, but also with regards to the context of culture for deep meanings uncovering. The study further looks into how the writer uses lexical items and event sequences such as chains of clauses and sentences to relate his texts consistently to their area of focus. The mixed quantitative and qualitative methodology has been used for the attainment of the research objectives. The analysis has revealed the predominance of the expectancy relations over the other types of lexical relations in both studied texts. Such a linguistic depiction of the excerpts is revelatory of the fact that the novelist has stuck to the subject matter of his texts to allow his readership to keep track with his plot in order to allow them to access his encoded messages easily. The expectancy relation is followed in the ranking order by a large number of antonymy and synonymy relations. This testifies to the author's richness in English vocabulary and his effort to get his poignant messages across without ambiguity. The research opens up to discourse semantic analyses of references and conjunctive relations for more hidden meanings decoding.

Key-words: Discourse, Lexical relations, semantics, SFL

Introduction

Ayi Kwei Armah's *The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born* is unquestionably a great work of literary art. The novel sets between 1965 and 1966, one of the darkest periods of the postcolonial Ghana when corruption was at its highest peak. As generally acknowledged, great literary creations have usually been highly symbolic and thereby have gained in complexity and depth as regards the messages conveyed therein. Such is the case of the above mentioned novel. To address the issues of corruption, enlightenment versus ignorance as well as the aftereffects of colonialism in post-independence Ghana dealt with in the novel, the novelist has used a lot of symbolism that requires not only reading between lines but also special study to understand if one really wants to avoid scratching the surface meanings of his writing. In that regard, this article explores lexical relations in two samples of text culled from the above pinpointed novel from a discourse-semantic perspective. In fact the purpose by choosing to carry out such an investigation is to contribute in decoding the various messages artistically encoded by the writer through the lexical sets or strings that he has built up in the selected texts by looking into how these words relate to each other in terms of meaning, and the roles they fulfill within the contexts of the selected texts. As Yule (2010) puts it, "in everyday talk, we often explain the meanings of words in terms of their relationships" (p. 117). To attain this goal, the study employs the mixed quantitative and qualitative methodology for the collection, organization, presentation, and analysis of the data as well as its interpretation. In addition to this introduction, the study goes round such cruxes as the theoretical background and literature review, Data analysis, interpretation of the findings, and a conclusion. In the theoretical background and literature review subdivision, the theory applied has been summarized and related literature to the study reviewed. The data analysis section gathers the collected data after analyses, organizes, categorizes, and presents them in an informative way paving thereby the way to the interpretation of the findings where the encoded meanings of the collected data have been laid bare. The conclusion rounds the study off by summarizing the study objective, the method employed, and the key findings arrived at.

1. Theoretical Background and Literature Review

This subsection elaborates on the theoretical perspectives underpinning the research at hand and reviews the related literature.

1.1. *Theoretical Background*

Lexical relations study about the meanings of words (Cruse, 2000, p.150). In the same vein, Saeed (2003:63) states that lexical relations deal with the relationships of the meaning of a word which belongs to a particular activity or area of specialist knowledge. On her part, Eggins (1994:101) considers that the cohesive resource of lexical relations refers to how the writer or speaker uses lexical items (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs) or open-class items and event sequences (chains of clauses and sentences) to relate the text consistently to its area of focus. According to Eggins (*ibid*), lexical relations analysis is a way of systematically describing how words in a text relate to each other, how they cluster to build up lexical sets or lexical strings. Indeed,

lexical relations operate between units which encode lexical content, i.e. the open class items of nouns, main verbs, adverbs, and adjectives. Grammatical words or closed class items such as prepositions, pronouns, articles, auxiliary verbs do not encode lexical content and cannot enter into lexical relations. Actually, there are two main kinds of lexical relations between words namely the taxonomic lexical relations and the expectancy lexical relations (Eggins, 1994, p.101). In taxonomic lexical relations, one lexical item is tied to another through either classification or composition also called meronymy. The taxonomic lexical relations operated via classification are relationships between super ordinate terms and their members or hyponyms. Classification of X is a type of Y relationship. The main kinds of classification relations are: Co-hyponymy, Class/sub-class, contrast/Antonymy, and Similarity.

When two or more lexical items used in a text are both members of a super ordinate class they are considered Co-hyponyms. For example, carrot and banana are co-hyponyms of the super ordinate vegetable.

Class/sub-class relations occur when two or more lexical items used in a text are related through sub-classification. E.g. Vegetable: carrot (here the relationship is super ordinate term to hyponym).

Contrast or antonymy relationship between words is established when two or more lexical items used in a text encode an opposite relationship. Happy: sad (antonymy relationship).

There is a Similarity relationship between words: when two (or more) lexical items express similar meanings. They are of two main sub-types:

Synonymy: when two words essentially restate each other. Examples include clinic-hospital, liberty-freedom. In fact, synonyms are words with very closely related meanings which are often, but not always intersubstitutable in sentences (Yule, 2010, p.117).

Repetition: when a lexical item is repeated. Repeating a lexical item in a text contributes significantly to the text cohesion.

The other main type of taxonomic lexical relation is that of composition. Actually, composition is the part/whole relationship between lexical items. They are of two main kinds: meronyms and co-meronyms. Meronymy has to do with two lexical items that are related as whole to part or vice versa. E.g.: head-brain. Two lexical items related by both being parts of a common whole. E.g. Brain: Meninges.

The second main type of lexical relations is expectancy relations which may operate between a nominal element and a verbal element. The expectancy relation can also operate between an action and the typical expected "doer" of that action. Here are some examples: physician/ consult; bees/buzz; birds/fly. It can further operate between an action/process and the typical "expected" participant effected by that action: smile/ person; speak/ human beings, sing /artist

The predictability relationship between an event/process and the typical location in which it takes place may also be described as an expectancy relationship:

Pray/church; Lecturer/college; Seller/ shop

Expectancy can also be used to capture the relationship between the individual lexical items and the composite, predictable, nominal group they form:

Whole/seller; Blood/donor; Blood/transfusions

As Martin (1992: 293) points out, sometimes two or more lexical items may be functioning to express one piece of lexical content. Some examples are given below in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1. Simple and complex realizations of lexical content

Meaning expressed	Simple realization 1 lexical item	Complex realization (2+ lexical item)
Person	Baby	Human infant
Action	Embrace	Have a cuddle
Quality	Desperate	At your wit's end
Circumstance	Sometimes	From time to time

Source: adapted from Martin 1992-293

Language is a tri-stratal semiotic system that involves a stratum of meanings, wordings and of sounds or orthography (Eggins, 1994, p.81). The highest stratum of language viz. the stratum of meanings is also referred to as the discourse-semantics of language (Martin, 1992a) to replace earlier labeling of this stratum (e.g. by Halliday, 1978) by the single term semantics. As a matter of fact, Martin's (1992a) term: discourse-semantics is a double-barreled one.

From Halliday's (1978, 1985b) perspective, the semantics part of the above mentioned double-barreled word covers the three aspects in any situation that has linguistic consequences namely field (what the language is being used to talk about), tenor (viz. the role relationships between the interactants and mode (the role language is playing in the interaction)). These three aspects also called register variables are respectively associated with: the experiential meaning realized through the transitivity patterns of the grammar, the interpersonal meaning realized through the Mood patterns of the grammar and textual meaning realized through the thematic patterns of the grammar. As for the discourse part of the discourse-semantic label, it describes the different types of texture that contribute to making texts that is to say, the resources that language has for creating a text (Halliday & Hasan, 1976/85). As a matter of fact, texture is what holds the clauses of a text together to give them unity. In fact what belong to the discourse stratum of the systemic model are the systems of all the different text-forming resources of language. Alternatively put, the discursal part of the discourse semantics describes the types of cohesion through which texture is realized in texts. Indeed, there are four types of cohesion: references, lexical relations, conjunctive relations and conversational structures (Eggins, 1994, pp.95-109). The design of cohesion in text is connected to semantic ties or "relations of meanings that exist within the text, and that define it as a text" (Halliday & Hassan, 1976).

1.2. Literature Review

Many investigations have been carried out in the area of lexical relations by scholars and researchers. This section reviews some of these works not only to explore the limits of research within the area, but also to highlight thereby the relevance and worthiness of the current research work at hand.

In their study on *A Lexico-Semantic Reading of Chimamanda Adichie's Purple Hibiscus* Yeibo & Akerele (2015) explored the language of the novelist's text. Using M.A.K. Halliday's Systemic Functional Grammar as the analytical template, they investigated

aspects of lexico-semantic patterning in *Chimamanda Adichie's Purple Hibiscus* such as simplicity of lexical choices, collocation, semantic fields, selectional restriction rule, category rule violation, imagery and lexical relations (i.e. synonymy), in order to establish their connotative implications and how they cohere with the writer's text, to demonstrate the author's artistic target, in conjunction with other linguistic elements and cultural as well as contextual variables. The study unveiled that the construction of a literary text is a linguistically mindset activity, as the lexico-semantic nuances and dynamics of Adichie's text explored are critical and strategic both stylo-rhetorically and in message delivery. From the researcher's perspective, this confirms the fact that the linguistic choices made by a writer from the plethora of options at his/her disposal are engendered by subject matter and context, as these twin elements choose their own variety of language.

Sugiharti and Yurike (2016) investigated a semantic analysis of the English billboard Advertisement on Roads in Batam. The aim of the research was to study the English words that are used in advertisement, especially in the billboards along the road in Batam. More to the point, they studied what the English billboard advertisements on roads in Batam looked like and what the meanings of the words used in those English billboard advertisements were. The study appealed to the descriptive qualitative research design. The findings show that the most prevailing billboard ad is Brand Advertising (90 %) and the language used in this type of billboard advertisements is English. The brand Advertising is predominantly used because the brand advertisers want their products to be sold to the multilayered people, especially as the residents of Batam come from different backgrounds and nationalities. The researchers concluded that there were two kinds of Billboard Advertisements that used English as their language in Batam: Brand Advertising and Institutional Advertising. Moreover, the most type of lexical meanings used in English billboard advertisements are: conceptual meanings, connotative meanings, and social meanings.

Rafida (2018) carried out a research work on semantic analysis on lexical relations in Pujakesuma Language. The author has decided to carry out such a research work because semantics is one of the important aspects in linguistics and lexical relations of Javanese society nomads in Sumatera Utara (Pujakesuma). The research work aims to decode the meanings encoded in the different lexical relations of the above mentioned language. To attain this aim, the researcher appealed to the qualitative research design. The findings of the investigation highlight that the most commonly noticeable lexical relations in Pujakesuma language include polysemy, homograph, synonym, antonym, and hyponym which are used to encode significant meanings in the language users' everyday social interactions.

In his article entitled Discourse-semantics Analysis of References in two Selected Excerpts from *Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Americanah*, Yokossi (2020) seeks to explore the reference chains of the writer's selected texts. The purpose of the choice of studying reference chains in the selected excerpts is first of all to appraise the way Adichie has used them to realize texture within her studied texts. Secondly, it aims to find the extent to which references have contributed to the encoding of underlying meanings in *Americanah*. The mixed quantitative and qualitative methodology is the one used for the research. Among several other findings, the research has revealed that the studied

texts are highly cohesive with endophoric references largely predominating over the other reference types. According to the author, using such cohesive ties as Adichie has done, has allowed her text not only to stick together but also to be highly readable and flow logically. The extensive use of the endophoric references is also revelatory of the mode of the studied texts which is archetypal of a monologic written text. The exophoric references features indicate that the studied texts were produced in a context of immediate face-to-face feedbacks with language accompanying action. As it can be witnessed throughout the review of the literature carried out so far, so many research works have been conducted within the area of lexical relations showing how the latter ones can serve to encode deep meanings in different types of texts ranging from literary texts to prose fiction including written and non-written advertisements. The scrutinized literature has also interestingly revealed, to my best knowledge, that no research work has been carried out so far on lexical relations in samples of texts culled from Ayi Kwei Armah's *The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born*. As a result the research at hand is relevant and worth carrying out to help extend the limits of knowledge arrived at so far in the area of discourse-semantics within systemic functional linguistics.

2. Data Analysis and Findings

The analysis has been carried out in the appendices. The following statistical table displays the findings resulting from it.

Table 2.1. Recap statistical table of the overall recorded lexical relations in both analyzed excerpts.

Types of lexical relations			Excerpt N°1	Excerpt N°2	Excerpts N°1 & N°2
Taxonomic relations	Classification	Hyponymy	02 (2.56 %)	00(0.00%)	02(1.22%)
		Co-hyponymy	02 (2.56 %)	02(2.32%)	04(2.44%)
		Class/sub-class	03 (3.84 %)	00(0.00%)	03(1.83%)
		Antonymy	08 (10.26%)	19(22.1%)	27(16.46%)
		Synonymy	09 (11.54%)	19(22.1%)	28(17.07%)
		Repetition	19 (24.36%)	04(4.65%)	23(14.02%)
	Meronymy / Co-meronymy	Meronymy	08 (10.26%)	15(17.44%)	23(14.02%)
		Co-meronymy	04 (5.13%)	07(8.14%)	11(06.71%)
Expectancy			23 (29.49%)	20(23.25)	43(26.22%)
Total of lexical relations per excerpt			78	86	
Overall lexical relations in both texts			164		

As it can be witnessed from the above statistical table, two types of the taxonomic lexical relations class are missing from the second excerpt: the hyponymy as well as the class/subclass lexical relations of the classification sub-category. Whether in the first or in the second excerpt, all the other types of both taxonomic and expectancy lexical relations have been recorded in different proportions. As a matter of fact, the taxonomic lexical relations altogether prevail over the expectancy lexical relations in both excerpts taken together. To descend to particulars, they add up to one hundred and twenty-one (121) in both excerpts representing 73.78% of the overall lexical relations recorded in the studied texts. As for the expectancy lexical relations, they are a whole number of forty-three (43) representing 26.22% of the overall recorded lexical relations in the selected excerpts. Indeed, the synonymy lexical relations prevail over

the other types of the classification lexical relations category. Under this subset, they are followed in the ranking order by the antonymy lexical relations which are recorded with almost equal number. In fact they are twenty-seven (27) in number with a percentage of 16.46% of the overall identified lexical relations in the analyzed texts. Repetition lexical relations are third and count twenty-three (23) viz. 14.02%. Under the meronymy/ co-meronymy sub-category, meronymy counts exactly the same number and therefore ties equal in the ranking order with repetition lexical relations. Under this second subcategory of the taxonomic lexical relations, co-meronymy comes fifth in the ranking order with a global number of eleven (11) representing 06.71% of the different recorded lexical relations in both excerpts. It is followed by co-hyponymy (04/2.44%), class/subclass (03/1.83%), and hyponymy (02/1.22%) which occupy the sixth, seventh, and eighth positions respectively in the ranking order. As distributed in both studied excerpts the recorded lexical relations encode serious meanings that are going to be decoded in the following subsection entitled interpretation of the findings.

3. Interpretation of the Findings

First of all, it is important to highlight that while the first excerpt deals with the uprightness of ordinary Ghanaian citizens in a corrupt society, the second excerpt exposes the consequences of corruption and the glory of honest citizens in the last years of Kwame Nkrumah. Thus, it goes without saying that both selected excerpts are contrasted and linked by causal and effect relations.

A close look into the findings as statistically presented in the foregoing section of the article clearly shows that hyponymy, co-hyponymy and sub-class lexical relations are the less occurring ones in both excerpts with a rate running from 1.22% to 2.44%. These three lexical relations discuss relations among different classes in the studied texts. Their low occurrence in the selected excerpts highlights the insubordination of the poor class represented by the unnamed protagonist called Man to the corrupt bourgeois class represented by both the timber merchant and Minister Koomson. Words related to hyponymy, co-hyponymy and class/sub-class in the first excerpt deal with the Ghanaian ordinary citizens' poverty and the wealth of government officials. Conversely, the field changes in the second excerpt. In fact, the words in relation to the above mentioned lexical relations this time deal with the fear and phobia of the wealthy class. This underscores the integrity of the lower class members who do not want to imitate the bourgeois class despite the hardship of their living conditions. On the one hand, while Minister Koomson has three cars among which the latest white Mercedes 220 super, his old classmate Man, a railway clerk, can only afford for his lunch fufu which is miserable food without meat. In that regard, the writer stated the following in the studied excerpts: " He would like some good fufu, but without a lot of meat, street fufu is miserable food, and with meat the cost will crucify a man completely..... Two cars now....No, you're way behind. Three. The latest is a white Mercedes 220 Super" (p.110). On the other hand, the members of the corrupt overthrown government were stricken by a great panic due to the policemen and army repression. For example, the novelist started "Koomson was sitting on the bed, just behind the screen. He looked like a man afraid that utterance of a single word would

be the end of him" (p.161). He added: "When the man's eyes had again adjusted to the darkness, he could see the vague luminosity of Koomson's eyes in the direction of the window, though from time to time they seemed to turn with a road quickness toward the door, when any noise or any movement came from there" (p.161). This dreadful depiction of the fate reserved for the corrupt politicians is certainly purposefully aimed at discouraging from envying those involved in corruption. The corrupt people will always end very badly. A vivid example is that of Koomson the corrupt minister who, after the coup, lives in fear, loses his dignity before escaping to Abidjan. The writer's use of the hyponymy, cohyponymy and class/subclass lexical relations in the process is an invitation to his readership to take example on the non-corrupt citizens like Man for safer and happier social living conditions.

In other respects, the antonymy lexical relations such as used in the first excerpt show the restriction between classes. Moreover it highlights the parallel relationship between the present and the future, hence hope for the unnamed hero Man, and grief-stricken regret for the upper corrupt class. The opposite words in the first excerpt show the mockery of the poor class and its rejection by the bourgeois corrupt one. As an illustration, the same timber merchant who had a pleased laughter (p.107) has a hostile laughter (p.107) when man refuses to receive his gift. In the Man's battle against temptation of easy brides, the timber merchant breaks a limit and said to him another day: "Ei, so you are here today too. Contrey, why you try to do me so? You don't want me to ate, contrey? ... You. You are a very wicked man. You will never prosper. Da". (p.107).

The high percentage of antonymy (22.1%) in the second excerpt is depictive of the implementation of the hope announced in the first excerpt through Man's fierce struggle against corruption even if he is not totally satisfied. The hope was made real by the coup that overthrew Kwame Nkrumah's government in 1966 and caused panic among old government members who were caught by the police and army. The antonymy words in the second excerpt deal with the happiness caused by the coup among ordinary citizens on the one hand, and the phobia of the former government members on the other. To illustrate the happiness enjoyed by the poor class, the writer stated "When he got home the Man felt almost happy, and like a happy man he did not climb up the four little steps onto the veranda, but leaped lightly up, thinking of youth and days in school when the sun had shone sweetly in the fields." (p.160). After the coup, the overthrown government members lived in terrific fear. Koomson lived this period of great distress finding rescues from Man's house through Oyo, his wife. He feared to be killed by soldiers and policemen. To demonstrate the degree of the panic he was stricken by, the writer states the following: "Koomson was sitting on the bed, just behind the screen. He looked like a man afraid that utterance of a single word would be the end of him ". ... "Once the man thought he saw Koomson staring at his shirt front, as if he saw in that too another source of possible danger to himself " (pp.161-162).

Meronymy and co-meronymy are disproportionally used in both excerpts: 14.02% in the first excerpt, and 6.71% in the second one. Their discourse function is to set out the texture of the texts in their context. Texture in the studied texts deals with cohesive resources, while context deals with coherence in the lexical choices in order to help guess the field of the discourse. Cohesion is operated in the texts by such logical

connectives as conjunctions and references. The writer has made use of such devices to tie clauses within sentence, sentences within paragraph and paragraph within texts to establish cohesion in his studied texts. The following is an illustration: "**When** he got home the Man felt almost happy, **and** like a happy man he did not climb up the four little steps onto the veranda, but leaped lightly up, thinking of youth and days in school **when** the sun had shone sweetly in the fields." (p.160). In the absence of the logical connectives in bold in the above quote, the text would run into a chaos and be incomprehensible. Beside these cohesive resources, the writer has also used coherence resources to provide the studied excerpts with their contextual properties through the lexical choices operated to set their fields. In the first excerpt, meronymy and co-meronymy words deal with the moral decay of kwame Nkrumah's government members and the rejection of the honest man by the corrupt class while in the second excerpt the same lexical relations have been used to demonstrate the citizens' support to the coup, the coup phobia in the city, and the unsanitary living environment of the wanted government members. For example, in the first excerpt, the choice of such words or phrases as: Mercedes 220 super, Accra, Achimota, booze, swinging, fresh little girls, holy child girls (p.110) is illustrative of the upper class moral decay that prevailed before the coup. Actually, Mercedes is a type of luxury car, booze means to drink alcohol especially excessively, swinging implies an activity whereby couples are engaged in sexual immorality with different partners. This choice of such words made by the author let his readers think of sex abuse which was in fact committed by Koomson. The choice of such meronyms in relation to army as: soldiers kill, policemen luck up (p.159), overthrown (p.158), noise (p.158), fear (p.160), confused, disturbing (p.160), new men of power (p.158) let think of a coup which was really conducted by the police and army against Kwame Nkrumah's government. Owing to the coup, the former government members stand in awe, looking for escape, while living in unsanitary environment. The fate of the corrupt is just deadly.

Synonymy relationships have been established to highlight the richness of the writer's lexes or vocabulary. Moreover, using so many synonyms evokes the writer's concern for the accessibility of his text to his readers. In fact, by saying the same thing in so many other different ways help the writer's readership whatever their level to better grasp his various messages without ambiguity. To get down to specifics, synonymy words in the first excerpt deal with bribery pressure on Man, sex abuse, and mismanagement of national resources by political authorities. In the second excerpt, the writer uses the same synonymy lexical relation to depict the happiness the coup has procured to the citizens and the panic it has released among the former government members. By portraying the corrupt as done in these studied texts, the writer would like his contemporaries to step back from corruption and change their ways to think, behave, and believe which are the sine qua non conditions for the development of their country. Overthrowing a government is not the solution. If those taking over the power after a coup have no solid moral foundation, the same problems will continue. As it can be witnessed in the selected excerpts, the living condition of the ordinary Ghanaian has not actually changed despite the coup. This means that the problem is elsewhere and such is the writer's key message to her readership.

Ghanaians have to change their mentality and renounce corruption, embezzlement of public funds as well as immoralities of all kinds.

The use of repetition in the excerpts is not without meanings. Indeed repetition has been used to convince, persuade, and let the readership know that what the novelist has written about is of utmost importance. In fact it is important to look into what the writer has written about that is so important to require repetition. As a matter of fact, the repeated words in the first excerpt focused on corruption pressure, mockery of the honest citizens and the moral decay of the upper class. In the second excerpt, the repeated words are related to the coup support pressure, hope of the honest citizens, and the hopelessness of the corrupt class. It appears very clearly that the writer's key message in the selected texts goes round corruption and its consequences. By repeating words around this social plague the writer is insisting on the need for something to be done to counterattack its ravaging effects on society. More to the point, the novelist has used repetition as witnessed in the selected texts, to describe the practice of corruption in Ghanaian administrations precisely in railway services while castigating it in order to get the leaders of the country to do something to end such a dirty and retrograde practice which does not favor the development of the country.

The expectancy relation creates a coherent mental representation of the discourse through the causal, contrastive, and conditional relations. To go into details, in the first excerpt the expectancy relation words deal with themes like: ordinary citizens' poverty, mismanagement of national resources, human right violation and nepotism. However, in the second excerpt, they revolve round topics such as: coup, police repression, army behind the overthrown government members, hope for citizens, and panic of former government members. In the first excerpt for example, readers are not surprised to come across the following group of words which collocate and relate to the same theme perfectly: secondary/school, ministry of/ education much/money letter of/complaint, bursars/office, each/other, closed the school/ down (p.109). Reading such words within the register of the excerpt viz. the context of situation of the text, rather prepares the readers' mind for an act of corruption in school administration. In the second excerpt, the constituents of such pair of words as: corrosive/gas, staring/eyes, breath/of good air, time to/ time collocate. Their association should not be any surprise for the reader. In fact, within their situational context, these words prepare the reader's mind to a very bad living condition of Koomson in his hideout in man's latrine expecting his escape. Who could imagine a minister hiding himself in a poor man's latrine? This is the writer's key message to his readership that good will always triumph over evil no matter how long it takes. One should get rid of evil and remain upright in their social, religious, political, diplomatic, as well as professional relationship with their contemporaries for safer and happier living conditions.

The dominant topics of both excerpts combined include the panic and hopelessness of the former government members. It is followed by the happiness of the poor, honest class, moral decay of the corrupt class, mockery of the lower class by the upper one, corruption, poverty, sex abuse, nepotism, police repression, and unsanitary environment. By choosing to write about the above topics, the writer no doubt aimed at sensitizing not only on the code of conduct of good citizens and good leaders but also on the consequences of leaders' misbehaviors in early independent Ghana when

the government was accused of corruption, mismanagement of national resources, human right violation and cult of personality.

To round off both excerpts display interesting expectancy relations which justify the appreciated level of development in Ghana today within the Economic Community of West African States.

Conclusion

This research work has scrutinized lexical relations in two selected excerpts from Ayi Kwei Armah's *The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born* from a discourse-semantic perspective. The motivation behind the investigation stemmed from the desire to probe, via lexical relations analyses, the writer's language use in the selected excerpts not only in relation to the context of situation (register), but also with regards to the context of culture(genre) for deep meanings uncovering. More specifically, the research looks into how words have been used in relation to one another in the selected excerpts to describe the Ghanaian political situation in the country post-independence period of time as well as its consequences on the Ghanaian citizens no matter who they are. The research has appealed to the quantitative and qualitative methodology. Thanks to this mixed method, the different types of lexical relations embedded in the selected excerpts have been identified, statistically quantified and organized per category in an informative way. The qualitative component of the mixed method has allowed to interpret the data collected from the analyses carried out in both examined excerpts. The research has successfully arrived at important findings. Among several others available in the interpretation section, hyponymy, co-hyponymy and sub-class lexical relations are the less occurring ones in both excerpts. These three lexical relations discuss relations among different classes in the studied texts. Their low occurrence in the selected excerpts highlights the insubordination of the poor class represented by the unnamed hero called Man, to the upper corrupt class represented in the novel by both the timber merchant and Minister Koomson. Meronymy and co-meronymy have been used to set out the texture of the texts. Synonymy has been used by the writer to make his text accessible to her readership. As for repetition, it has been used to convince, persuade, and let the readership know that what the novelist has written about is of utmost importance. The most prevailing lexical relation in both excerpts viz. the expectancy lexical relation has allowed the writer to create a coherent mental representation of the discourse through the causal, contrastive, and conditional relations.

This research work has not explored such lexical relations as: collocation, contrast, homonyms, homophones, metonymy, polysemy, and prototypes. As such they constitute potential avenues for further researches in the same excerpts for deeper meanings uncovering. Looking into the discourse-semantics of references and conjunctive relations in the same extracts, would as well unquestionably add further findings to the current ones as regards the internal properties of the studied excerpts.

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Appendices

The lexical relations analyses have been carried out in both selected excerpts using the analysis keys hereafter:

Hyponymy: underlined, Co-hyponymy: underlined italics, Class/sub-class: blue, Antonym: underlined bold italics, Synonymy: bold italics, Repetition: italics, Meronymy: bold underlined, Co-meronymy: red, Expectancy relations: in bold

NB1: words which have exponents have to be counted a number time of the exponent in the same relationship.

e.g: house²: the word "house" has to be counted twice for the same lexical relation

NB2: words repeated in parentheses are words which have more than one relationships. Their lexical relations are defined by the analysis keys. Thus they are not repetitions as lexical relations.

e.g: office door (door): office door is an expectancy relation while the same word (door) is in meronymy relation with house

Excerpt No1: Culled from *The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born* from page 107 to 110

When he *opens* the **office door (door)** there is loud, *pleased laughter* inside, and a **voice** with a vague familiarity **says**. "No. This is only your kola. Take it as kola.' Another laugh. I was sure you would understand, if only I could *find* you properly. My friend, if you *get* the logs moving for me, I **will see you again**. Don't worry. I will take you to my own **house**." It's all right, the allocations clerk kept saying. *'It's alright.'*

When he got to his desk the man looked more closely and saw the timber man with the many rows of teeth, **this time** in a suit that made him look like someone's forgotten bundle. He was happy.

'Hey, my friend' said the timber merchant *'gets my card, Get my card.*

The clerk reached out and took the proffered card, saying. "Thanks."

"Ho ho, don't thank me. I am the one to thank you. Ho hoho!"

The timber merchant turned to *go out*. As he passed by the man's desk and saw him he *stopped* as if he could not believe he had actually been in the same **room** with him all this time. Then he burst into harsh, *hostile laughter*.

'Ei, so you are here **today** too. Contrey, why you try to do me so? You don't want me to ate, contrey? Okay Take your- self. I get man who understands. Ei, my friend, why you want to play me wicked?

The man said nothing, but the timber merchant still stood *in front of* him, *staring*² at him as if he expected an *answer* to his *question*. The man turned to *look* at his chart to see if there would be any answer to his Morse signals now. *Behind* him the timber man laughed again, very *shrilly*, and shouted at him, "You. You are a very wicked man. You will never prosper.Da".

The man said nothing, did not even look back at the hurler of the insult. There was an answering signal on the machine and he listened to it, not bothering to **write down the letters**. It said 'Prestea.' Someone else just testing in the **morning**. The man gave a further answering rap, and tried another station farther up the line. To his left there was the sound of the door *closing* behind the angry timber man.

"What did you do to him?" It was the voice of the allocations clerk.

'I told him I could do nothing for him."

" I see".

"Will you bring his timber?"

"Yes. He has learned his lesson".

'What lesson?' asked the man.

The clerk answered with a chuckle, nothing else. *It is so normal*, all of this, that the point of holding out against it escapes the unsettled mind. Everyone you ask will 13 the timber merchant is *right*, the allocations clerk is right, and you are a fool, *and* everyone is right the way things are and the way they will *continue* to be. The *foolish* ones are those who cannot live life the way it is lived by all around them, those who

will stand by the **flowing river** (**river**) and disapprove of the **current**. There is no other way, and the refusal to take the leap will help absolutely no one at **any time**.

The Morse machine rattles wildly and the signature says it is Obuasi. Again. Better *answer* him as if nothing were *wrong*.

"Morning."

"You are there."

"Yes."

"Say why."

"Work."

"Say why."

"Wife."

"Say why."

"Be serious".

"Goway. Say why."

"Children."

A very long pause, then a long rattle. At first the man thinks it is all without meaning, but when he writes down the individual letters what he gets is an endless 'Hahahahaha-hahaaaaa.' To the maniac he taps a *reply*. "You *mad*." Another long laughing roll, abruptly cut short.

"Yourself." *Silence*. Nothing more to say, then, 'Mines train loading.'

"Start **time**".

"**0619**(0619). Fourteen m late."

'Fine.' The man thinks of slipping in his question.

"Who be you?"

"Your father *hahahahaha*."

"Mad you *hohohoho*. From the other end, only silence now.

The office fills up as the **day**³ clerks enter, first the small boys and messengers, then the other clerks. About *nine-thirty* the Senior Service men come in each with his bit of leftover British craziness This one has long white house, that one colonial *white*. Another has spent two **months** on what he still calls a study tour of Britain, and ever since has worn, in all the heat of *Ghana*, *waistcoats* and *coats*. He would have made a good Obedient Boy of the Empire on a Queen's Birthday, When the Supervisor of Space Allocations *enters*, the allocation clerk *hurries* to his office. The two of them know each other well, and owe **each other** a lot It is well known that the supervisor was once, before coming to the Railway Administration, a bursar at one of the **Ghana** national **secondary schools**. As is the *custom* in this *country*, he had *regarded* his job as an opportunity he had won for making as **much money** as he could as *quickly* as he could, and his handling of the school's finances had soon made his intentions clear. The students had complained to the **Ministry of Education** The Ministry, as is *usual* in this country, had searched for the students most responsible for the drafting of the **letter of complaint**, and dismissed them for gross insubordination. The remaining students had rioted. The Ministry, looking for more students to dismiss, had **closed the school down**. There had been no financial probe, of course, but none would have been possible, anyway, since a fire had gutted the **bursar's entire office** during the rioting. **Very shortly** after that the Railway Administration was advised from above to appoint the bursar to this new *job*. He had brought the allocations clerk with him,

and there was a likelihood that it was he who let it be known that the fire in the bursar's office was not the *work* of students.

The allocations clerk is in there with his boss for something like half an hour, and when he emerges he is closely followed by the supervisor and they are both smiling broad, very satisfied smiles. *Let them smile*. This place is kind to them, so *let them smile*. In another country they would be in jail. Here they are heroes.

Automatically, suppressing his irritation with himself and with all things around him, the man concentrates on the in-coming Morse messages, writing them down swiftly and sending back short replies, **asking questions**, exacting replies. At **lunchtime** he feels really "hungry and goes down to the sellers.

He would like some good fufu, but without a lot of meat, street **fufu** is miserable **food**², and with **meat** the cost will crucify a man completely. What he can afford there is gari and beans with **palm oil**, and in spite of the worrying thought that it is not called concrete for nothing, the man begins to enjoy it. A poor man must learn to suffer with his bottom also. He takes his pan and moves under the **shade of a nim tree** (*nimtree*), smiling at the loco workers already there. Between **lip smacks**, the talk is the usual talk, of workers knowing they have been standing on the **windy shore** with their snuff at their **fingertips**, never going in. Between sighs and bits of bitter laughter, phrases that are too familiar pepper the air. 'He is only a small boy....Yes, it's the CPP that has been so profitable for him. ... Two **carsnow**....' 'No, you're way behind. Three. The latest is a white **Mercedes. 220 Super**.' 'You will think I am lying, but he was my classmate, and now look at me.' 'Ah, life is like that,' Ei. and girls!" "Running to fill his cars. Trips to the Star for week-ends in **Accra**(*Accra*). *Booze*. *Swinging* niggers, man.' *Girls, girls. Fresh little ones* still going to Achimota and Holy Child... "These **Holy Child girls!**" *Achimota* too!" He is cracking them like tiger nuts.' 'Contrey, you would do the same... "True...*money swine*". "*Money swine*".

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Excerpt No 2 Culled from *The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born* from page 158 to 162

When the **sun had gone up** there was the sound of some *commotion*(*commotion*²) in the street outside. A man who had been a trade unionist for the *overthrown government*(*overthrown government*)(**overthrown government**) (*overthrown*) rushed into the office announcing the *coup*(*coup*) as if he had himself accomplished it. Then he ordered **people** (**ordered people**)to *go out* and *show* their *loyalty* to the **new men** of power. With a *silence* that spoke everybody's shame, the men in the office went out singly to join the crowd outside. In the same manner they had gone out in fear to hear the farts of the Party men.

The men did not move from this desk. The *old-new* union **man** stood *staring* at him, then said, "Contrey, *what about you?*"

"Yes, *what about what?*"

"We are all *demonstrating*"

"For what?" "Don't you know there is a *new government?*"

"They tell me so. But I know nothing about the man. What will I be demonstrating for?"

"Look, contrey, if you don't want *trouble*, get out."

"If two trains collide while I'm demonstrating; will you take the responsibility?"

"Oh, said the organizer, "if is the job, fine. But we won't tolerate any Nkrumaists now." "You know" said the man slowly, "you know who the real Nkrumaists are."

The unionist turned round and went down to join his crowd. Through the wind their sounds came: old songs with the words changed from the old prais Nkrumah to insults for him. So like noises of the Party when all the first promise had been eaten up and it had become a place where fat men found things to swell themselves up some more. The noise moved away up the hill, and then the men who had followed their fear to go and swell it did not come back to work the rest of the day. The time head quietness that raised thoughts of the man's whole life, with images and even tastes that struck the senses with a painful sharpness and then disappeared immediately, leaving only the sense of something forever gone, an aloneness which not even death might end.

The evening shift man came only a few minutes late. He looked very preoccupied with some interior business, and he offered nothing, no information about the coup, except a long look of great chagrin and uncertainty. Perhaps, like all the ambitions, he had been hoping to realize some great personal dream of sudden wealth, and with the fall of the old government his dreams had had to disappear. Perhaps.

The streets were very quiet. Only here and there, a small group of men would be talking, and it did not seem necessarily true that they were talking of the things that had taken place this day. At the bus stop people were talking, but in truth nobody knew anything except that there had been a change, and the words merely repeated the talker's first astonishment, then endless questions about who the new men were, what they were going to do, what they had been doing all along. There were no answers to any of these questions, though one man who reeked of drink and vomit claimed that this was all a plan of the devilish Nkrumah, to bring everybody out into the streets and then have his soldiers (soldiers) and his policemen catch (policemen catch) them all and lock them up, as he had done before. Near Effia Nkwanta the bus backfired, and a woman (woman) passenger with a child (child) in her arms threw herself forward, rushing toward the entrance and screaming that they were going to kill her and her little one. Otherwise there was nothing really unusual, except perhaps that there was more silence around, as if, in a rare moment, people were all busy thinking and had no time or no desire to fill the air with the usual noises of life. As he turned along the road to go home, the man left completely apart from all that was taking place. He would like to know about it, but there would be plenty of time for it, and he was not burdened with any hopes that new things, really new things, were as yet ready to come out. Someday in the long future (future) a new life would may be flower in the country, but when it came, it would not choose as its instruments the same people who had made a habit of killing new flowers. The future goodness may come eventually, but before then where were the things in the present which would prepare the way for it?

When he got home³ the man felt almost happy, and like a happy man he did not climb up the four little steps onto the veranda (veranda), but leaped lightly up, thinking of youth and days in school when the sun had shone sweetly in the fields.

He found that the single leap had almost ended in a collision with Oyo. She was standing just outside the hall door (hall door), and when he could see her face properly the man judged that she was confused. She was looking as if something

tremendous were *disturbing* her, but the same time the man could see in her eyes something he could only think of as a deep kind of love, a great respect. He continued his forward movement until he had pushed his wife back very gently against the wall to the side of the door. Though the movement and the sudden tenderness in himself surprised him, he knew it was true, and he put all his fingers deep into her hair and held her head, pressing against her and letting her feel his desire for her. She raised her eyes in a motion of soft unbelief, and she looked like a *young girl (young girl) afraid* she may be doing something wrong.

Deede *came out*, making straight for the kitchen(kitchen). It was impossible to see her face clearly, but she moved like a child greatly agitated. The man looked again into his wife's face.

'Let's goin,' he said.

'He is *inside*,' she said, with a wild look. 'Koomson.'

'When did he come?'

'About an hour, two hours.'

'But why?'

'They are arresting them. He *fears* they will kill him. It is terrible.'

She held his hand² and led him inside, as if he were a stranger coming into her house, or a lover not sure of himself. Adoley and Ayivi were sleeping in the hall, entangled like some strange kind of **Siamese twins** in the same chair.

'They have eaten,' Oyo said. Then; again unnecessarily, she motioned to him come *quietly*, and the two of them entered the inner room.

It was quite dark inside. The smell was something the man had not at all expected. It was overpowering, as if come **corrosive gas**, already half liquid, had filled the whole room, irritating not only the nostrils, but also the inside, of eyes, ears, mouth, throat. It was difficult at first to tell where Koomson was in the darkness, so the man reached for the wall switch and turned on the light.

Koomson was sitting on the bed, just behind the screen. He looked like a man afraid that utterance of a single word would be the end of him. He was in a suit of dark woolen material with a shirt whose brilliant whiteness had in the sudden light a tinge of blue, and a black bow tie. On his nose small points of perspiration stood, looking as if they were about to increase in size and fall every next moment. But they did not.

Koomson sat rigid for a few moments, like a person knowing it was a matter of ¹⁹ **greatest importance** for him to avoid making any motion at all. Slowly, as if he were trying to do it without attracting the attention of invisible watchers, he raised his string eyes in the *direction* of the light above, then looked imploringly at the man. Surprised, in spite of himself, by the completeness of the change in Koomson's manner, the man failed to understand the look. In a moment Koomson was gesturing with quick, desperate the motions, pointing first at the light and then at the open window in his silent frenzy, the fear coming out of every piece of him.

The man understood. He switched off the light. Then he moved over to the window, pulled the shutters and closed them, straining for a **breath of good air** as he did so. He waited for Koomson to say something now, but only the subdued breathing of the frightened man, punctuated with increasing rapidity from below, destroyed the peace of the room. When the man's eyes had again adjusted to the darkness, he could see the

vague *luminosity* of Koomson's eyes in the direction of the window, though from **time to time** they seemed to turn with a road quickness toward the door, when any *noise*² or any *movement* came from there. With time the whiteness of Koomson's shirt became discernible again, even seeming to supply a soft light of its own. Once the man thought he saw Koomson staring at his shirt front, as if he saw in that too another source of possible *danger* to himself. Seeing the party man therein front of him now, acting as if he saw himself entirely surrounded by *hostile* things and feared that *every coming moment* would *turn out to be his last*, the man remembered the last visit and wondered at the great contrast with the super confidence of the days gone by. It would be *wrong*, very *wrong*, to think as he was already thinking that the change would bring nothing new.